

## A. F. of L. Blocks Inquiry Into Brindell Ring

John Donlin, Head of Building Trade Department, Tells Central Council It Has No Legal Authority

### Hints at Political Move

Thinks Form of the Labor Czar's Organization Is "One That Might Succeed"

In reply to a recent resolution of the Central Trades and Labor Council calling for an investigation of the Building Trades Council, formerly headed by the labor czar, Robert P. Brindell, now in Sing Sing prison for extortion, John Donlin, president of the building trades department of the American Federation of Labor, told the Central Trades body yesterday to keep hands off.

Donlin's attitude has caused a great stir in labor circles here, as it was thought that in view of the Lockwood committee's exposure in connection with the operations of Brindell's council and the public clamor for a housecleaning, the A. F. of L. authorities would at last favor such a move. Samuel Untermyer, chief counsel to the Lockwood committee, has said that the so-called reforms within the organization were mere shams and that the council, still dominated by lieutenants of Brindell, retained many of the obnoxious features through which it was revealed by the committee, hold-ups of building contractors were made possible. Patrick Crowley, the new president of the council, says the organization would welcome an investigation by any reliable group of citizens.

**Donlin's Attitude**  
In the face of this, Donlin, however, opposes the investigation on the ground that the local Central Trades body has not the authority to conduct an inquiry. He fails to intimate, however, that such a step would be desirable. On the contrary, in a letter to William F. Kehoe, secretary of the Central Trades and Labor Council, he writes that "the form of the Building Trades Council is one that might succeed" and that the move "was characteristic of New York and the elements that seek the investigation."

There were some among the labor men who said that Donlin's attitude should not have caused any great surprise, in view of the fact that the American Federation of Labor heads have been severely criticized in the past for their failure to take any steps whatever toward cleaning out the Building Trades Council and for their general attitude of unconcern toward the sensational revelations of extortion and grafting brought out in the course of the Lockwood committee's probe.

Crowley, in making public Donlin's letter to Kehoe, said: "Personally, I and all of the members of the Building Trades Council, as it is at present organized and constituted, would court any investigation by any reliable group of citizens." Referring to the resolution calling for the inquiry, he said: "The gentlemen of our association who introduced the resolution are trying to create sentiment among the members of their local unions against the council at this time in order to promote their electioneering purposes before an election, which is to take place in June. They are trying to split the labor

movement for their own personal gains."

Donlin's letter reads: "Your letter of the 10th inst. is at hand accompanied by a copy of minutes of the Central Trades and Labor Council of the 5th inst. Replying to the subject: Investigation into the Form of Organization of the Building Trades Council of the City of New York, allow me to say that such an investigation might be welcomed by the Building Trades Council. However, the question is a matter of law. Has the Central Trades and Labor Council the authority to investigate the Building Trades Council? The whole matter is characteristic of New York and of the element that seeks the investigation."

"The form of the Building Trades Council, in my opinion, is one that might succeed, where one of the biennial elections would be sure to fail. Nothing is so injurious to our movement as the element of politics, and the longer the period between elections the better the chance for attention to be given to the interests of the layman, if I am allowed to use the expression in Washington, as I believe New York has it patented."

However, the Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, under its charter, has jurisdiction over all matters indicated by the name of the department (see section 19 of the constitution of the A. F. of L.), and as president of this department I respectfully inform your central body that you have no right to investigate any body chartered by this department, and these great defenders of democracy which are associated with your body would do well to recognize departments and not arrogate unto themselves automatic authority, but recognize the constitution to which we as a movement have subscribed."

The calling of the housecleaning referred to was introduced before the Central Trades body on May 5 by Philip Zaussner, secretary of District Council No. 9, of the United Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America, which organization has long been at war with the Brindell council because of the labor czar's efforts to break the painters' union through his forming an outlaw organization.

**Moran Trial To-day.**  
As a ground for the investigation, Zaussner declared that the Building Trades Council was inimical to the interests of organized labor, that it was undemocratic and emphasized the manner in which it chose its delegates for a period of three years instead of six months.

Peter Stadtmuller, who is in the Tombs awaiting sentence for extortion in connection with Brindell, declares that Brindell had certain American Federation of Labor officials under his control. He added that at the present time the majority of the members of the council were sick of Brindellism, and that the members were fearful of the wrath of a group in the council known as the "entertainment committee," which is composed of strong arm men loyal to Brindell.

The inquiry of the Lockwood committee into the affairs of the New York Fire Insurance Exchange will be resumed in City Hall this morning. Joseph Moran, one of Brindell's aids, who was indicted jointly with him and Stadtmuller for extortion, comes up for trial before Justice McAvoy to-day.

**Kills Self With Paris Green**  
Because of Worry Over Taxes  
NEWTON, N. J., May 30.—John B. Howell, sixty-seven years old, a retired business man who had lived alone for seven years at Branchville, near this place, committed suicide to-day by taking Paris green.

Howell had worried over taxation and other matters in connection with his property holdings. Several days ago he turned over his bankbook and personal belongings to a neighbor for safekeeping.

Greens emanating from the Howell residence attracted the attention of a neighbor. Mr. Howell died before a physician could reach him.

## Army Probers Seek Cause of Air Disaster

(Continued from page one)

well known as pioneers in aeronautical development. The consensus of opinion expressed by aviation experts was that the lack of landing fields was the cause of the accident.

It was pointed out by one pilot who has flown over the territory between Langley Field and Washington, an air distance of 130 miles, that there is not a single emergency landing field available, despite the fact that it is one of the most important airways in the country and the one most extensively traveled. The land on the Virginia side of the Potomac, he said, is marshy and unsuited for landing purposes under any conditions. Even on the Maryland side of the river there is no good ground suitable for landing, but it is better than the Virginia side, and this probably was the reason Lieutenant Ames did not attempt to go back to Langley Field when he encountered the sudden storm.

Richard H. Depew Jr., one of the leading Curtiss pilots at Garden City, yesterday declared unfounded the criticism that the Eagle was not properly balanced. He described the technical details of the machine, and then pointed out its remarkable record of safe and efficient flying since it was first designed. It is the same plane which Lieutenant Ross Kirkpatrick flew for more than eighteen hours with a greater load than attempting to break the world's endurance record.

The pilot is the best man to know whether his plane is evenly balanced," said Mr. Depew. "My opinion is that when the pilot of the Eagle attempted to make a landing his plane was struck by a sudden gust of wind of gale force and put into a side-slip while he was too close to the ground to recover."

C. F. Redden, president of the Aero-Marine Airways, said:

"The tragic accident at Indian Head on Sunday which resulted in seven deaths apparently was not caused by the storm but by the lack of landing fields. If there had been a suitable landing place available, Lieutenant Ames could have come to earth safely. The accident has been the cause of great grief to all of us in aviation, because three of the men killed were known to every one interested in aviation and were my personal friends."

**Navy Aircraft Upheld**  
"Sad as it was, however, the chances are that his plane is evenly balanced," said Mr. Depew. "My opinion is that when the pilot of the Eagle attempted to make a landing his plane was struck by a sudden gust of wind of gale force and put into a side-slip while he was too close to the ground to recover."

"There is no doubt about the Eagle being able to weather the storm in the air. The disaster occurred when the pilot sought to make a landing where an unobstructed landing place did not exist. The unfortunate accident will not retard aviation but will emphasize upon the country the need of equipping landing places."

**Air Disaster Increases Plea for Unified Service**

**General Mitchell Declares Immediate Action Is Needed; Separate Agency Is Urged**

From The Tribune's Washington Bureau  
WASHINGTON, May 30.—The fatal crash of the huge Curtiss-Eagle airplane Saturday has reacted strongly here among Washington officials. They are swept with a feeling that everything humanly possible must be done to prevent a recurrence of the tragedy. Most outspoken of all is Brigadier General Mitchell, chief of the army air service. The loss of some of the

best of the air personnel of the country, he declared, demands immediate action toward complete unification of all branches of air service—a complete organization of all aviation on the most efficient possible basis.

"Wireless communications and between planes must be perfected without delay," he said. "We must have a thorough system of weather signals and warnings. The meteorological service should have a definite and established place. Everything that we have been delaying doing must be done now if we are to reduce this sort of thing."

It is the general belief here that this accident may be immediately responsible in bringing to a head the long discussed proposals for a department of aeronautics or some other agency under which the various branches of the air service will be combined.

Such a plan is strongly advocated by General Mitchell. He has maintained before committees of Congress and elsewhere that such action is the only way in which the United States will be able to keep pace with other nations in the development of this branch of the national defense. England has been taking long strides under the operation of its air ministry and Japan has undertaken a program that will put her in the front among the powers controlling the air within the next five years, in the belief of army experts.

Such a plan most favored would create a new department of the government, identical in status to those now under the members of the President's Cabinet. Under the Secretary of Aeronautics there would be three principal divisions—a supply department, a department for control of both the army and navy forces, and a department of civil aeronautics.

### Marine, in Plane Caught By Gale, Drops 700 Feet

**Major Turner Regains Control When Near the Earth and Fights With Air Currents**

WASHINGTON, May 30.—Major T. C. Turner in charge of Marine Corps aviation, it became known to-day, had a narrow escape in the same storm which caused the wreck of the Eagle as well as sending a Fokker plane, piloted by Captain B. S. Wright, crashing to the earth at Rockpoint, Md., and giving Brigadier General William Mitchell, assistant chief of army aviation, and Captain Ocker, his aide, some thrilling moments. He was flying from Langley Field to Bolling Field and ran into the outer edge of the storm when about over Dahlgreen, Va. He headed for the river, thinking to make the marine landing field at Quantico, Va.

"When the full force of the storm hit me I was flying at an altitude of about 1,100 feet," Major Turner said to-day. "I was in a two-seat plane, with Lieutenant Sanderson as a passenger."

"The wind changed from southeast to north almost instantly and the resulting cross currents and air pockets were terrible," he said. "It rained harder and the wind went down as we came in sight of Quantico, and as we circled over the field there the sun came out for a few minutes and we made a landing. I will never fly in another thunder storm under any conditions."

**New Hampshire Hotel Burns**  
MILFORD, N. H., May 30.—The unoccupied Ponalma Hotel, four miles from this town, was burned to-day. The loss is estimated at \$100,000.

## Firemen Glued to Posts And Flames Are Stuck Up

Everything but Smoke Trapped When Blaze and Water Attack Paste Plant

Special Dispatch to The Tribune  
CHICAGO, May 30.—The brave firemen stuck to their jobs until the last; some of them stuck longer and tighter than others. But all of them stuck. The fire was in the basement of the United States Paste Company's building on the West Side. Most of the adhesive was in open bins in the basement, a powdery, starchy substance that gave no hint of possibilities when the fire fighters arrived to extinguish the blaze that had started in a rubbish pile. Fireman William Murphy gave a thrilling account of the troubles encountered.

"A peculiar set of circumstances saved the plant," Murphy said. "The flames became stuck in a vat of liberated glue, holding the fire in one place so that it was unable to spread. When we turned our streams on these paste bins, the whole place was running with paste. We didn't know what it was until our feet began to get heavy and then we thought we were just tired. But when we got stuck fast to the floor, we knew there was something wrong. Our escape from death was miraculous, the fire finally creating so much steam that the paste was loosened and we were freed."

"The glue that fell on the flames stiffened them. I hear that a lot of scientists are coming over to-morrow to see the stiffened flames." The damage to the building was estimated at \$150, and at \$200 to the fire department.

### Wood Hears Call for Philippine Protectorate

**Woman Declares Islands Could Not Offer Defense Against Outside Force**

SAN FERNANDO, Union Province, P. I., May 28 (By The Associated Press).—Major General Leonard Wood and W. Cameron Forbes, comprising President Harding's special mission to the Philippines, departed to-day for Baguio, where they plan to remain until Monday, going from there to Manila.

At a public meeting in Dagupan, at which Mr. Forbes presided, a woman speaker criticized the municipal president for what she termed his radical independence views. The president declared that he preferred absolute independence without a protectorate.

A banner carried in the parade which escorted the mission into Baguio read: "Will the Philippines become America's Irish question?"

At all public hearings held by the mission on this trip speakers told the mission that a protected independence was wanted, but if this was not possible they would desire complete and absolute independence. The mission held many private conferences at which candidates for political offices are said to have expressed exactly opposite views from those they gave in public.

### New Group in Parley To Rule in Vladivostok

**Japanese Consent to Formation of Temporary Militia; Far Eastern Republic Aroused**

TOKIO, May 30 (By The Associated Press).—Another new government has been organized in Vladivostok by Lieutenant General Boldireff, who is trying to come to terms with M. Markudoff,

head of the government previously established, according to dispatches from Vladivostok to-day, which add that the political uncertainty continues. The Japanese command in Vladivostok has agreed to the formation of a temporary militia, the advisers say. A dispatch to the Nichi Nichi from Harbin states that the authorities of the government of the Siberian Far Eastern Republic at Chita developed differences of opinion as to what attitude they should take toward the political change of Vladivostok, some of the members of the government advocating an attack upon the Kappell forces. The government conferees, however, after a meeting on May 28, finally decided merely to ask the Japanese not to adopt an aggressive policy. The Chita authorities, adds the dispatch, expressed the opinion that the Japanese were behind the scenes of the shift in control.

### Abraham Heller Arrested At Riga, Held for Inquiry

**Russian Soviet Trade Envoy, Who Had Offices in New York, Without Passport**

RIGA, Latvia, May 30.—The Lettish authorities have arrested and are holding for an investigation Abraham Heller, of New York, who is said to have been a Russian Soviet trade attaché in the United States. Heller is declared



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to have arrived in Riga on the way to Russia without a passport. Heller figured prominently in the activities of the Bolsheviks in New York two years ago as commercial agent of the "Soviet Embassy" at 110 West Fortieth Street. His work was largely directed toward establishing trade relations between the United States and Soviet Russia and he was accused at one time of directing an ingenious propaganda to bring pressure to bear on Washington by sending letters broadcast to thousands of manufacturers offering to buy goods from them if the United States should permit commercial relations. Heller, it is understood, is an American citizen and attended Harvard University. He was in the jewelry business for a number of years in Paris and also was founder of the International Oxygen Company in New Jersey.



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